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CONTACTS MAGAZINE

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April 1994

VATICAN RAMPAGE



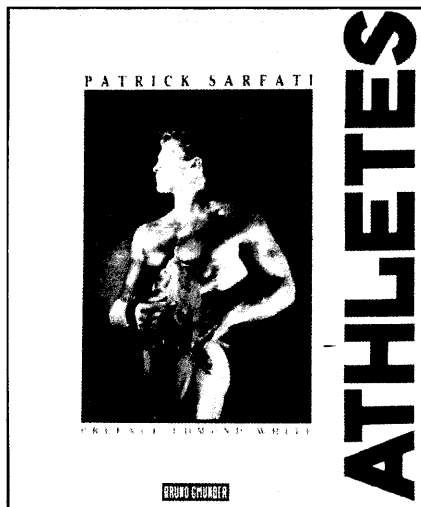
This Month

Buddha & Me
Gay Japan
Saunas
Pride in London

接觸雜誌

Gay and Lesbian Magazine

MALE PHOTOGRAPHY



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The Editor

In an article, by Ron Gluckman writing in *The Sunday Post* on 27th March, the gay community was urged to "learn to walk before it can run" and told "We have to be careful to take things one step at a time."

It seems to me a great pity that in nearly all recent articles, whether radio, TV newspapers or magazines some of our so called 'gay activists' are not prepared to challenge homophobia and speak out loudly and clearly for gay rights for Hong Kong's gay community. Instead it appears they prefer to take a 'Let's not scare the animals' approach.

It is such a shame that we do not have any leaders who we can look up to as a positive role models. As long as we continue to adopt such a laid back attitude we condemn yet more gay people to stay in their closets, with the doors firmly shut, and allow gay oppression to reign unchecked.

Editor
Barrie Brandon
Design & Layout
Chris Dennis
News & Features
Thomas Choi, Camille Ho
Advertising & Subscriptions
Tony Ng

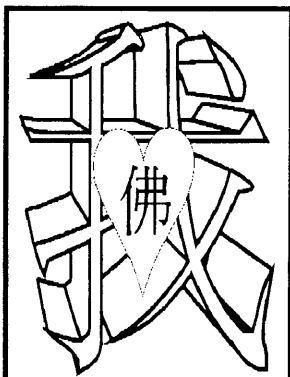
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Vatican Rampage

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一九八三年，我開始接觸佛教。八六年正式歸依為佛教徒。信佛至今已有十年。在禪定上亦有過一些體驗，但佛教的實踐是無分宗門。所謂處處都有佛在，事事都是佛法。就拿我做十份一會會長那五年來說，我當時本著的，就是佛教平等、自主、慈悲和方便精神。

釋迦牟尼當年，於菩提樹下成佛後，第一句話便是：「善哉！眾生皆具佛性！」意思是說，任何人都具有成佛的潛能。佛是古印度梵文 Buddha 的音譯，字面意思是：已醒覺的人。廣義來說，思想和行為（覺與行）都已達到完美至極的人就是佛。換言之，不論階級、性別、種族甚至性傾向，任何人都可以成佛。到了這裏，同性戀者和異性戀者，都被佛放置在平等的位置上，同樣為佛教所接納。就是這種平等思想，使我在爭取同性戀非刑事化的當中，堅決相信，我們在社會和法律上應與異性戀者同樣得到平等的對待。

剛才說過，釋迦牟尼成佛後，開宗

明義便說，人人都可以像他一樣成為佛。也就是說，每一個人都是自己主宰。在人之上，沒有任何更高級的神或力量，去操縱人的命運。甚至釋迦牟尼自己，也不過是靠個人的意志和努力，經過多年的修行才成佛，並非受到甚麼啓示更，非神的化身。佛認為，怎樣的行為，造成怎樣的後果。所謂種瓜得瓜，種豆得豆。積極的行為造成積極的後果，消極的行為便造成消極的後果。一切福禍苦樂，並非神靈加於人身上的賞罰，只是自己行為的成果。由於這種自主自負的思想，使我深信，我們唯有以行動去爭取幸福與快樂，才能得到。我們唯有認同自己的性傾向，才能使人認同我們的性傾向。我們唯有尊重自己存在，才能使人認同我們的存在，因此我不單活得自信、自得和自在，並且很樂意地擔起了十份一會會長的重任。

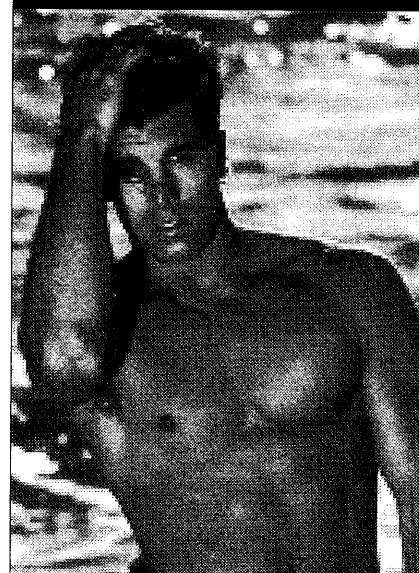
正因為這樣，眼看當時八十年代的同志們那種既唾棄自己，又被別人唾棄的痛苦，使我的內心，生起了無限慈悲。給與別人快樂就是慈，拔除別人的痛苦就是悲。佛講慈悲，佛教徒講解行。作為佛教徒，不能只在佛前燒香誦經便了事，要坐言起行。於是，我藉著做十份一會會長的機緣，通過籌辦康樂、文藝和學術的活動，希望使同

志們，在酒吧的士高之餘，活得更積極，更團結。希望藉此提高他們的自我認同。同時，亦透過向外溝通活動，希望也能慈悲異性戀者。不錯，他們也苦。他們對陌生的同性戀感到不安和恐懼。不安和恐懼，都是不愉快的感受，不愉快的感受，即是苦的感受。異性戀者，亦因自己的無知而苦人又自苦。於是，我與外界對話，希望異性戀者能對我們有更大的了解。了解到我們和他們根本就沒有太大的分別，沒有甚麼值得懼怕。

雖然我做十份一會會長的動機及行動背後的思想，都與佛有關，但從來沒有把佛兩字掛在口邊。因為一，佛教八萬四千法門，無非方便。正如要把一個人渡到河的對岸，用木筏也可，用船也可，搭橋也可，無論是筏是船還是橋，無非為了方便那個人到達河的對岸，並非真理所指。第二，真理是不需要標籤的。真理就是真理，沒有所謂「佛教」的真理，「基督教」的真理，或「天主教」的真理；只有佛教的「教義」，基督教的「教義」，或天主教的「教義」。而這些教義，正如筏、船或橋一樣，無非為了使人到達真理的彼岸。至於是坐筏，乘船還是行橋，則視乎各人的喜好了。

Julian Chan

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Local News



Stonewall 25

● There is still time to confirm you will be going to New York for the March on the UN on the 26th June and there are a limited number of scholarships, both for fares and places to stay, available. Please fax 817-9120 for further details.

● It's always good to be able to welcome new gay places to go—it's a double pleasure when the new venue is being opened by someone who is known and trusted by the gay community. The plan is to have a Cafe Al Fresco, an en suite Karaoke, and perhaps best of all a piano lounge at CE Top. Wah Chai told us "We are going to open in May with a big opening party." For all you who like to party full details will be in the May issue of Contacts Magazine.

● Thai Light Zone is now the place to get a late night snack or coffee, located next to Propaganda at 38 Wyndham Street Central. It's ideally placed to meet friends, and it's open until six in the morning on Saturdays.

● Another new place to try is Elements, open Friday and Saturday nights, from 10 PM. Although they are trusting the word of mouth technique, they hope this 'experiment' will be a success. Elements is on 1/F above the Acropolis Restaurant, D'Aguilar Street, Lan Kwai Fong.

● Social Hygiene Clinics. There have been changes both in addresses and phone numbers over the past few months. A complete list will be published next month. Meanwhile if you need their services it might be best to call the Department of Health on 859 8235 for the clinic nearest you.

● Gay Porn Videos are again being offered for sale, this time through a Macau Post Box. The videos are expensive and are of very poor quality. Would-be buyers are urged to buy only from reputable dealers. Remember you have no legal redress if things go wrong!

● The 10% Club in recent newspaper interview, promoting their opera, said they had something to say. It would be great if they could find people who are happy being "out" to be photographed.

● Aids Concern is always looking for new volunteers for a variety of essential jobs within the organisation. If you have any spare time and skill to offer please give them a call. They will be delighted to hear from you. The next orientation course for new volunteers will be in May. Details in next month's issue of Contacts Magazine

Seen something interesting?

Let us know by 3rd May.

Fax : 817-9120

World News

USA

● San Francisco—The number of new recorded cases of AIDS in San Francisco fell by 50% last year, according to the city's health department. Health researchers in the city said that the drop reflected the effectiveness of prevention programmes implemented in the 1980s and that they expected the number of new cases to continue to decline over the next three years. With around 4% of its population infected with HIV, San Francisco has the highest incidence of HIV of any US city. The majority of those infected are gay and bisexual men.

● Washington — Despite J. Edgar Hoover's fondness for wearing dresses, the legendary founding director of the FBI would have no problem being recruited into the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the 1990s. New guidelines say homosexuality and a record of smoking marijuana are no longer a bar to joining the US law-enforcement elite.

Australia

● Sydney. Hailed as the biggest and best gay event anywhere in the world, this year's Mardi Gras held in March attracted over 500,000 spectators, with more than 10,000 marchers led by the Dykes on Bikes group, a group of lesbians riding motorcycles. The event has been growing since its beginnings as a brutally-suppressed protest march in 1978.



Mardi Gras

Canada

● Gay Police Chief re-elected. Canada's only 'out' gay head of a police commission in Canada has been re-elected to his post. Alex Munter was voted in for a second one-year term as chair of the Kanata Chief Services Board.

Malaysia

● Kuala Lumpur. Too much democracy leads to homosexuality, moral decay, racial intolerance, economic decline and single parent families, says Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. He accused Western countries of double standards and said immigrants there and those who professed different religious beliefs were discriminated against. Democracy had become a "religion" in the West and had led to gross moral decay with widespread drug abuse and homosexuality and the growth of single parent families.

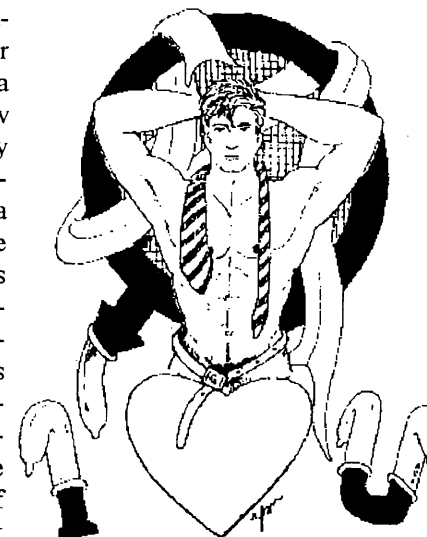
Saunas

On a friend's insistence and out of sheer curiosity, I visited a gay sauna a few weekends ago. To my surprise and abhorrence there was not a single condom to be seen! I raised this point with the proprietor and his response was that it was the individual's responsibility to practise safer sex and the sauna's displaying of condoms might get

them into trouble. Subsequently, he produced a salad bowlful of condoms with a wry smile.

It is an irony that whilst gay saunas have all but closed down in the Western world, this phenomenon is mushrooming in Hong Kong. The demand for these saunas is obvious. Instead of taking the risk of picking up a plainclothes policeman in some cottage or being turned away with your pick-up by some proprietor of a motel, saunas provide a safe and comfortable environment where young gay men — most of whom still live with their parents — can engage in free and anonymous sex. Gay saunas in Hong Kong are run like any other legitimate businesses and have been seemingly approved by the authorities.

My point is that these saunas whilst providing accommodation for sex, have a moral responsibility to safeguard the



health of their clients. This can be done by littering sheaths inside the premises or by putting one in every locker. A vending machine inside the toilet is another alternative. These are common practices in gay saunas in Bangkok, the gay "capital" of Asia. We all know that Hong Kong Chinese are reluctant to purchase

a packet of condoms at a chemist. And in any case, not everyone who visits a gay sauna is fully prepared for coitus; they might just be dropping in on their way to another appointment. The solution seems simple but it has its legal complications. The decriminalisation of homosexual acts only allows sex in a "private" place and saunas are classified as public arenas. If one makes condoms freely available it can be construed as "aiding and abetting a criminal offence" irrespective whether they are used on or off the premises. The same argument was used by the Home Office in England when it deliberated and decided against distributing condoms in prisons.

Let me reiterate that I am not offended by the concept of gay saunas or their existence. In any free and capitalistic society, the principles of macro-economics such as supply and demand and the freedom

of choice must prevail. Nor am I saying that all Hong Kong businessmen are unscrupulous and exploitative; since proprietor that evening, the management has hung up some "safer sex" posters on its walls. I would like to see Hong Kong following the Thai example where condoms are freely available in gay bars and saunas. It is irrefutable that, whether one is straight or gay, one would not like to see one's fellowmen and women die of an incurable disease. As for the proprietors, on top of their moral obligation, it also makes good business sense to promote safer sex in order to ensure their customers keep on coming back. Gay saunas are here to stay in Hong Kong and personally I think they have a role to play in Hong Kong's burgeoning gay culture.

Johnnie

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Vatican Rampage!

For the real master of political correctness you really have to go to the Vatican. Yes, that great dealer in Bull, the Pope, has done it again! In the latest edict recently issued to all Roman Catholics, Pope John Paul 2nd said the Holy Roman Catholic Church would fight a European Parliament resolution proposing that homosexual couples be allowed to marry and adopt children. "A relationship between two men or two women cannot make up a real family and, more to the point, you cannot allow such a union the right to adopt children who do not have a family," he said. He went onto say this is "intrinsically evil".



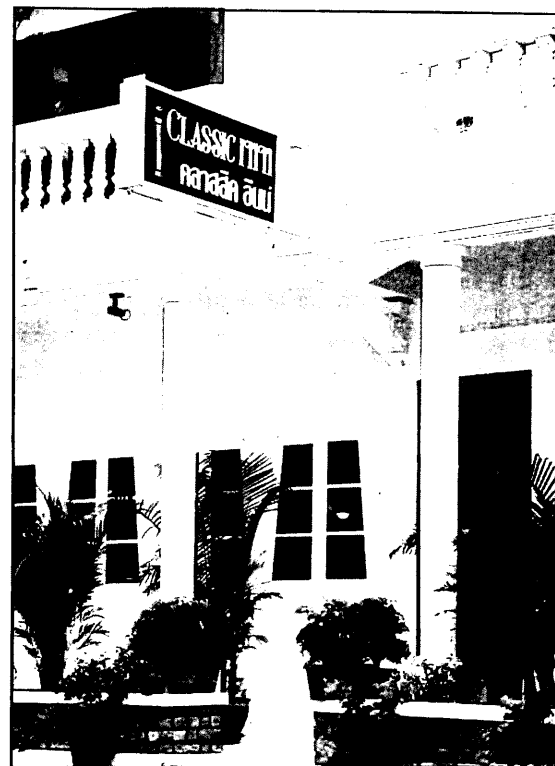
The Pope

The real tragedy is that an old man, who obviously has a psychiatric condition, sitting on a throne wearing a white dress in Rome, should wield so much power over so many people in the world. But then again, they have a choice.

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Barrie Brandon

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Oppression

Eliminating Lesbian Internalised Oppression

(Continued from March Issue)

Repairing the Damage

What We've Already Achieved: The situation has already improved. The blanket of silence has been broken in part. TV and radio programs, magazines like Lesbian Network, the increasing availability of Lesbian studies, participation in events like Mardi Gras, all ensure that accurate information and positive images are more readily available than ever before. Women live open Lesbian lives and present themselves with pride as lovable, capable human beings, refusing to be demeaned or dehumanised by the oppression. Young Lesbians coming out have more models, more spaces, more choices about how they want their lives to be. Now we need to build on those accomplishments. Unfortunately there isn't a complete and accurate formula for eliminating internalised oppression yet. This is what I want us to work on together. It's simply a question of figuring it out. Here are some ideas which I know, from experience, can contribute to the reclamation of our sense of our goodness, and our rightful place in the world.

① Recognise the internalised oppression as it operates in your life. Name it for what it is. Remember that it is lies. Interrupt it. Say to yourself "Hang on, that's not true, I'm not stupid." (bad, sick, whatever else is running currently).

② Replace the internalised oppression with the truth. This can be done by designing an affirmation-like message you tailor to suit your own situation, and which you repeat to yourself, e.g. "I used to think that I was unlovable. But now I know the truth, which is that I am powerful and creative presence in the world."

③ Sometimes there's some repair work to be done. This is a bit like the fourth step in 12-step programs. It starts, however, with the non-negotiable truth that you are good. "The worst that I can say about myself is that I've fucked up, perhaps very badly. Maybe there's some damage I need to repair, a lesson I need to learn, a regret I need to express. I did the best I was capable of at the time. I intend never to make that mistake again."

④ Interrupt the internalised oppression you hear other women running. "Stupid woman!" someone might say, with venom, of herself. Tell her she does not deserve to be spoken of in that way. Draw her attention to examples of her intelligence. If it's hard to think of times she acted intelligently (and sometimes people are so convinced that they are stupid that they act that way a lot), say "Do you really think of yourself as stupid? It's actually not true." Or use words that feel comfortable for you. The aim of your response is to convey to her that her internalised oppression is not reality.

⑤ Treat every Lesbian with complete respect, no matter how she has adapted in order to survive.

⑥ Do not countenance any put-downs of any Lesbian, even if expressed by other Lesbians.

⑦ Give good honest support to any Lesbian who dares to lead. By honest I mean tell her (not someone else) when she's off the track. Tell her she's on the track at least as often as you tell her she's off the track.

Conclusion

Refusing to swallow the oppression any more, naming it as lies, reclaiming the truth about ourselves and our sisters, will not necessarily or automatically lead to the end of Lesbian oppression. But Lesbian oppression will shift and weaken when Lesbians refuse to believe any more the lies that are told about them. And racist oppression will shift and weaken when those who are outside the fence marked "whites only" refuse to believe any more the lies that are told about them. And sexist oppression will shift and weaken when women refuse to believe any more the lies that are told about them. These are my thoughts. I'm wondering what you think about them. I'd love to get some response from other thoughtful women out there. Between us maybe we can figure out a way to reclaim our rightful place in the world, as fierce, proud, free women who occupy a loved, respected and central place in a less oppressive society.

Bev Henwood

LITERATURE

Martina writes mystery novels

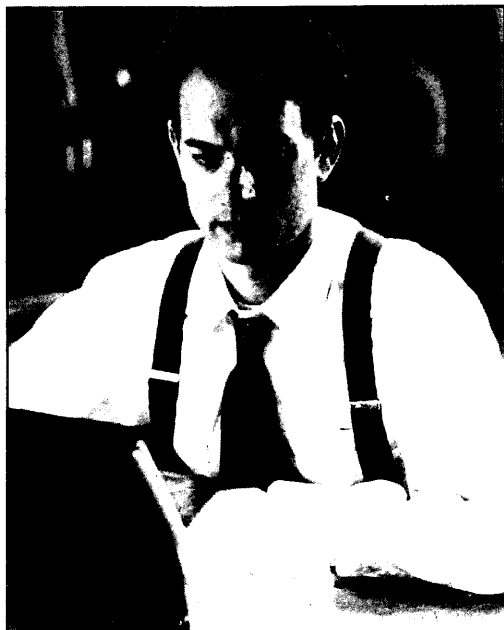


"Being a lesbian is not an accomplishment," said tennis champion Martina Navratilova addressing the Lesbian-and-Gay March on Washington last Spring. "It is not something I had to study for or learn or graduate in. It is what I am - nothing more, nothing less." Not content with managing to be an outspoken gay-rights campaigner while being number one for seven years, Martina has now announced her intention to write three mystery novels within the next two years. The novels, which are to feature "her personal and political beliefs - plus her rare insights into women's tennis" according to publisher Villard Books - reportedly will net Navratilova around \$1 million.

Navratilova has won more prizes than any other woman tennis player in history. She defected from Czechoslovakia three months after realising she was gay in 1975.

Review

Philadelphia



Tom Hanks in Philadelphia

It can come as no surprise that the worldwide lesbian and gay community has suffered for a long time from consistent cinematic misrepresentation at the hands of mainstream Hollywood: *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, *Cruising*, *Partners*, *Personal Best* or *Three of Hearts*—well-meant as some of them undoubtedly were—didn't and couldn't meet the emotional or intellectual needs of the community. Others, mostly from Europe or from the underpaid independent American and Canadian film-movement—*Abused*, *Another Country*, *Desert Hearts* or *The Lost Language of Cranes*—to name a few—have hit home, but to only a fraction of the gay audience available.

But now the waters of enlightenment, they are a-risin'. Sony/Tri-Star has plunked US\$25 million into a gay/Aids film of some consequence: award-winning team of Jonathan Demme (director) and Ed Saxon (producer), both responsible for the controversial and stunning success of *Silence of the Lambs*. And by roping in stars of the stature of Tom Hanks, Denzei Washington, Jason Robards, Mary Steenburgen and Antonio Banderas, they have assured that Ron Nyswaner's intelligent, sensitive and artistic script ended up as a positive view of gay men in crisis.

Nyswaner, a gay man of the creative triumvirate, is in his middle 30s, and has been writing screenplays for the past decade. While *Lambs* was being edited, Nyswaner brought up the idea of Aids and discrimination—gay civil rights. It appealed to the team.

Tom Hanks won the best actor Oscar for playing a lawyer with AIDS in Philadelphia, the first Hollywood movie about AIDS.

In a passionate acceptance speech, Hanks thanked gay men who had served as his role models, including a high school drama teacher, and dedicated his award to all the people who have died of AIDS.

"They finally rest in the warm remembrance of the gracious creator that created us all," he said nearly in tears at the 66th annual Academy Awards.

His likable, dad-next-door charm made him ideal for Hollywood's first major motion picture depicting a homosexual couple.

Danny Wong

Contacts Magazine April 1994

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Original fiction, 208 pages paperback, by Martin Foreman. HK\$105.00

Out Of The Closets

First published in 1972, this pioneering anthology records the earliest years of Gay Liberation in America. Filled with joyous self-affirmation, angry manifestos, and searching personal reflections, it highlights both how much and how little has changed since Stonewall. This new 20th anniversary edition of a book rarely available in Britain contains a new introduction by the editors and a foreword by John D'Emilio. "I can think of no book which better testifies to the early values, views, attitudes and aspirations of the Stonewall generation of lesbian-gay liberationists" - Henry Abelove, Wesleyan University.

440 pages, paperback, by Karla Jan and Allen Young. HK\$140.00

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The Singalong Tribe

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Gay Japan

日本之旅

在日本同性戀是相當開放,所以同性戀消費品在日本亦非常之普遍,如桑拿、浴室、酒吧、雜誌、播放錄影帶室、性商店,甚至同性戀映院亦有。

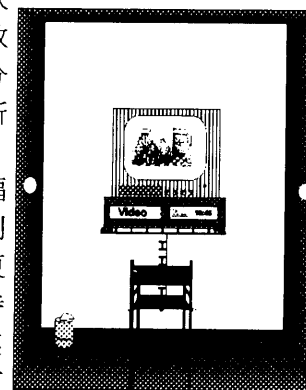
若在香港想看同性戀電影,唯有等一年一度的國際電影節或同志電影節中才可以觀看。但在日本你便可隨心所欲地看此類影片。全國共有十間專門放映同性戀電影的映院;分別在:大宮、新宿、新瀉、大阪、小倉、上、橫濱、京都、廣島及福岡等地。還沒有時間限制和管理員的騷擾,坐位更沒有固定,假若你有時間;大可整天坐在戲院裏看戲。有部份戲院更設有黑房和休息室給有需要人士使用。

日本的同性戀雜誌也有六本之多:分別是「薔薇族」、「SANBU」、「SAMSON」、「THE GAY」、「ADON」和「BADDI」等。內容大致是模特兒的寫真、小品故事、徵友欄及商業廣告等等。

至於同性戀酒吧有分為適合年青和年老的。但地方不算太大,只可容立數張桌子;而每張有三至四個座位。若果在這裏找到對象,大可

到同性戀酒店租房。

最具特式的可說是看錄影帶的地方,只要付出一千日元便可租用二盒錄影帶,而且沒有時間限制。中心面積大概千餘呎,在中央設有十多間房間;每間大概是三呎乘六呎。在房中放置了電視、錄影機、椅子和一盒面巾;房與房之間的木板有個一吋至二吋的



洞,從這個洞可以看到鄰房的一切。另外一間更加出人意料,由於所提供的並不是椅子,而是床;所以看到鄰房的並不是一個洞,而是設在地上的一枚鏡子。還有一間中心裝置了一部電話,作用是給外來

的朋友直接和你對話,若雙方有意也可相約出外。

最遺憾的是不能一睹日本桑拿或浴室的內裏乾坤,因為他們並不太歡迎外國客人,所以進入相當困難。至於性商店,以新宿二丁目最多;每間大致所賣的是內衣褲、錄影帶、雜誌、陽具、公仔、SM用品和一些催情藥等等。

若閣下到日本時不訪試試找這些地方,相信你對日本一定會留下深刻印象。

獅子

Derek Jarman 1942-1994

The news of the death of Derek Jarman robs us of one of Britain's finest and most imaginative post-war film-makers and one of our proudest and most indefatigably queer gay men.

Derek was a veritable human cornucopia of gifts, talents, skills, enthusiasms and mysteries. Growing up during and immediately after the war, his vision of life was always sombre.



On the set of *Edward II*

The facts of his career are well known, though it is rarely acknowledged how much he sacrificed, in worldly terms, when he turned his back on an immensely successful career in film and theatre de-

sign, before launching himself - and us - into his whirlwind reinvention of himself as a film-maker in 1975 with the making of *Sebastiane*. Whilst Julien Tem-

ple's *Absolute Beginners* cost \$8 million, Dereck made *Jubilee* for a mere \$75,000. For the rest of his life he had to fight for every penny to finance his work.

As Neil Bartlett wrote recently in a birthday

message: "Some people make being gay more of a pleasure. Some people reinvent what being gay might mean. Thank you, Derek."



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Top awards for gay shows

A gay play and a gay musical dominated the Tony Awards presented in New York in celebration of the 1993 Broadway theatre season.

Tong Kushner's *Angels in America* was named Best Play and also won awards for its director, George C. Wolfe, and two of its cast, Ron Leibman and Stephen Spinella.

The Kiss of the Spiderwoman, based on Manuel Puig's novel about a gay prisoner in a South American prison and his political cell-mate, was named Best Musical, with awards also for its book, by gay writer Terence McNally, score by Kander and Ebb, costumes by Florence

Klotz, and individual performances from Chita Rivera, Brent Carver and Anthony Crivello.

The only competition came from a new stage version of The Who's rock opera, *Tommy*, which jointly won an award for its Pete Townsend score, direction and scenic and lighting design.

In addition, a special Tony honour was presented to Broadway Cares/Equity Fighting Aids, the Broadway entertainment industry's most active charity concerned with raising money for Aids. It has so far raised and distributed more than US\$8m in the fight against the disease.

Contacts

MEN'S PERSONAL

English Executive, 39, just arrived from Thailand. Seeks friendly young man to guide me around town. All expenses paid. Box 123

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How are you? I am nature is moving and resting Box 114

Straight-acting, 26, 170cm, 60kg, non-scene. Seeks mature caring guy, 30-40 plus preferably Chinese, no games, 121 relationship only. Photo and address appreciated. ALA. Box 116

Chinese Cute 21+, slim (Your prisoner, sonny, toy) desires WM 30+ father, cowboy, coach, cop. Box 117

Name: Frankie. I'm searching for a guy who can share our happiness and sadness! Please write to me. Box 118

Chinese male 30, University graduate. Seeks 23-25 Chinese friends, letter with photo guarantees reply. Box 121

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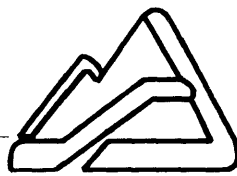
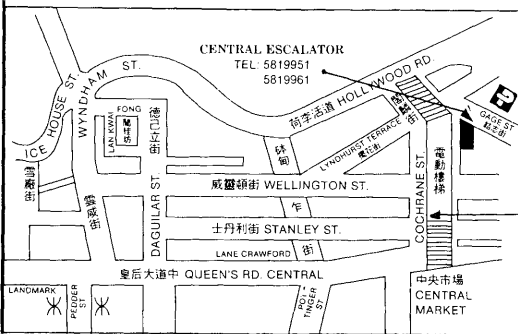
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